

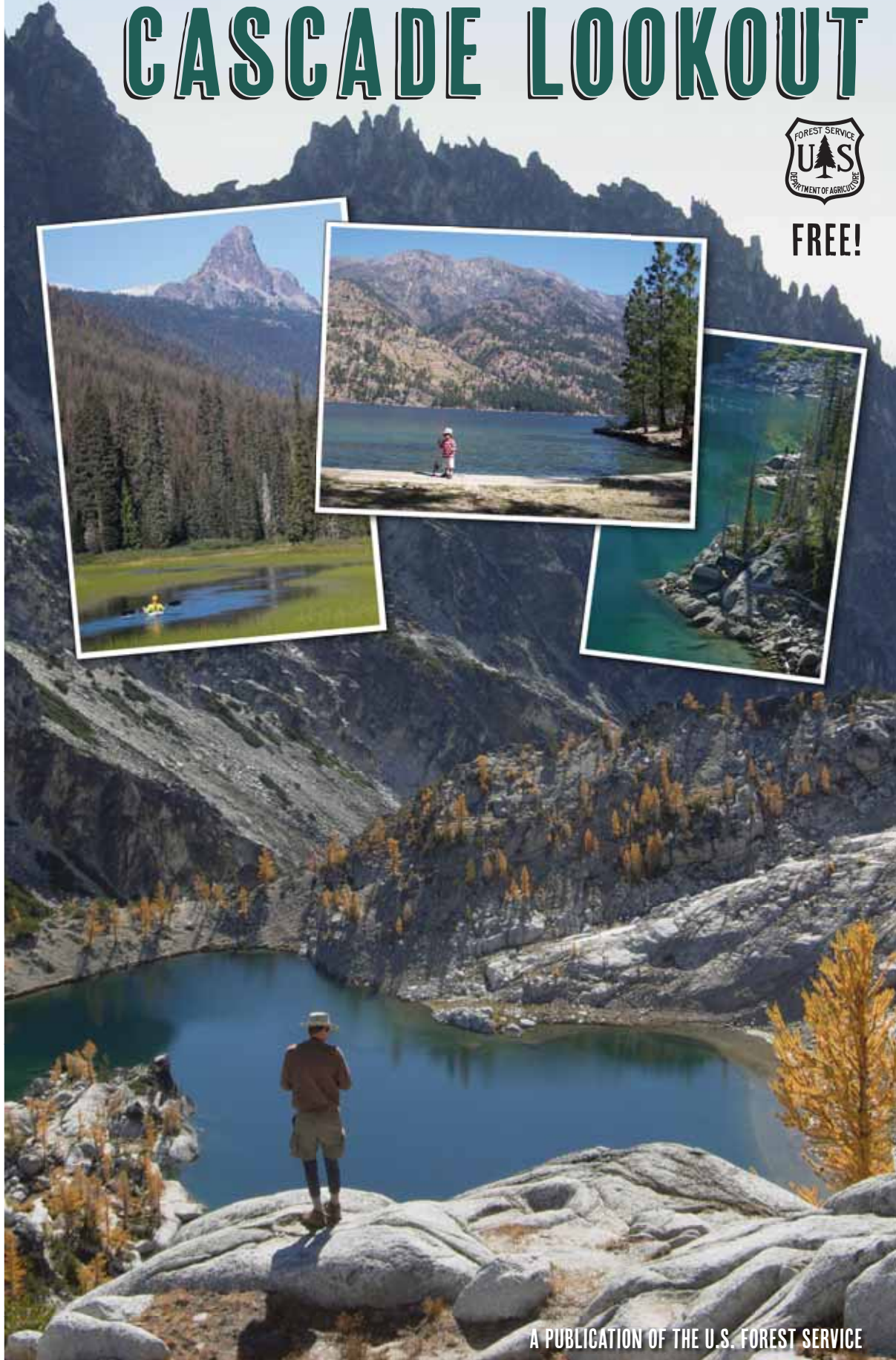
OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

2011

CASCADE LOOKOUT



FREE!



A PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

MESSAGE FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR



CLINT KVHL, DEPUTY FOREST SUPERVISOR AND
BECKI LOCKETT HEATH, FOREST SUPERVISOR

2011 marks the 10th year since the devastating Thirtymile Fire in which four Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest firefighters lost their lives. I'd like to dedicate this edition of the Cascade Lookout to those individuals—Jessica Johnson, Karen Fitzpatrick, Devin Weaver and Tom Craven.

Plans are underway to install teaching and informational signs along the road in the Chewuch River Valley leading up to the Thirtymile Fire Memorial and entrapment site. These signs will be used to help teach about the conditions that led up to the Thirtymile tragedy. We hope to have the signs installed by fall 2011.

Safety is a key message, not only to firefighters and forest employees, but to all visitors to the national forest. No matter what activity you may be participating in, please keep safety in mind. Go prepared for all weather conditions, know what to do in case of an emergency, obey campfire restrictions and area closures when they are in effect and always leave a trip itinerary with a trusted individual in case you do have problems or delays in returning home. We want your visit to the forest to be enjoyable, safe and memorable.

The current economic situation has impacted all Americans. Many are foregoing long trips or expensive vacations.

Gasoline prices are also limiting the amount of driving that many of us do. Our national forests remain an inexpensive and enjoyable option when planning a nearby vacation or picnic in the woods. Take advantage of the free and low-cost amenities while visiting your national forest.

Inside this edition of the Cascade Lookout young readers will be challenged to search for fun tidbits about wildlife and the forest. A check off list, located in the Kids Corner section, will help them know what to search for. For our more mature readers, articles about forest projects, current issues and fun recreational activities are also included.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Cascade Lookout and I look forward to seeing you in the woods.



Becki

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

BY SUSAN THOMAS

Managing the large and complex Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest requires the efforts of not only dedicated employees, but also an array of partners and volunteers.

Some of the ways partners help the forest are by maintaining recreation sites and trails, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring watersheds, monitoring plant species, improving wildlife and fisheries habitat, providing input to proposed management activities, conducting conservation education programs and responding to emergency incidents.

National forest partners include a number of federal and state agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, universities, public entities and private citizens. Their assistance is provided through a number of avenues including various grants, agreements, partnership and volunteer efforts.

There are many partnerships that are currently underway on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. A few examples include partners that join us in educating youth. For the past 20 years, over 55 partners have provided "edu-tainment" at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival (www.salmonfest.org). The Kids in the Creek program, in partnership with the City of Wenatchee, US Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology and Casca-

dia Conservation District, provides the opportunity to take classroom knowledge of aquatic and riparian ecosystems into the Entiat Watershed (see cascadiacd.org for more information).

In partnership with forest restoration, the Tapash Collaborative formed around a coalition of public, non-profit and tribal land managers organized under a Memorandum of Understanding between five cooperating agencies and non-governmental organizations. These groups, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, The U.S. Forest Service, and the Yakama Nation work cooperatively on coordinating landscape forest restoration work to overcome the constraints of the checkerboard land ownership patterns (see forest restoration strategy article for more info, or go to www.tapash.org).

An array of partners have joined us to accomplish miles of trail and campground maintenance, including Washington Trails Association, Backcountry Horsemen, The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and the Coulee Riders.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest employees are so thankful for the work that our partners provide and the wonderful relationships that have been formed!

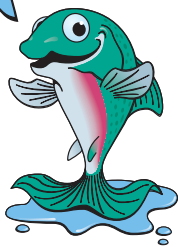
If interested in learning more about the Partnership Program on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, please contact Susan Thomas, Partnership Coordinator, slthomas@fs.fed.us or 509-664-9222 for more information. ■



FOREST SUPERVISOR BECKI HEATH SIGNING THE CHALLENGE COST SHARE AGREEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE.

Pictured right to left: Mary Bean, Recreation Program Manager and Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Glenn Glover, President of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Matt Lyons, Member of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance.

HEY KIDS,
CHECK OUT PAGE 19 FOR A
LIST OF FOREST-RELATED ITEMS
HIDDEN THROUGHOUT THIS
NEWSPAPER. SEE IF YOU CAN
FIND THEM ALL!



SALMONFEST WILLKOMMEN!

Enjoy this special Bavarian welcome and come to the 21st Wenatchee River Salmon Festival on October 1-2, 2011. The festival is held at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, 12790 Fish Hatchery Road, in Leavenworth, Washington.

Salmon Fest is devoted to fun-filled education, meaning it's both educational and entertaining. Our mission is to connect youth and families to the great outdoors by helping people discover and appreciate nature and the significance of salmon in the northwest. The festival brings people, natural resources, education, entertainment and science together in a non-commercial venue. Best yet, it's FREE!

The festival will be held a little later this fall.



This allows us to add field trips with better salmon viewing opportunities and allows around 3,000 school children more classroom time to learn about salmon.

What's there to do? LOTS! All ages can experience the hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, wildlife displays, music and art and don't forget to visit the inter-tribal Native American village. We're going to focus on outdoor activities this year and will have everything from animals to zamba. So, whether you like kayaking, raptors, art or even just sitting and watching, you're sure to have a great time. Join us!

Swim to our website at salmonfest.org or call 509-548-2558 for more information. ■

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION



I remember as a young child looking forward to Sunday afternoon drives. The whole family would pile into the car, we three sisters squabbling about who sat where in the back seat. The routes dad took would vary, but the thrill of possibly seeing a deer or an eagle, beautiful wildflowers or vibrant fall colors, or maybe even a brief glimpse of a cascading waterfall brought anticipation at every bend in the road.

Those carefree Sunday drives are not a thing of the past. Families driving through the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest can still experience the same thrills and wonders that I did when I was a kid.

I asked co-workers for suggestions on great Sunday drives in the forest, and these are some of their favorites. Why not take a spin on one of the following favorite routes.

CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

Take a drive on the south shore of Lake Chelan and stop at Field's Point to enjoy a picnic, a walk along the paved trail, a break on one of the sitting benches or berry picking. Visitors can read interpretive signs and look at a large relief map of Lake Chelan. Refreshments and postcards can be purchased at the orientation center (hours coincide with the ferry boat schedule). Temperatures can be very hot in the summer so folks may want to take this drive early in the day or towards evening.

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

Start your trip on Highway 97 about 19 miles north of Cle Elum. Take Forest Service Road 9738 to Teanaway Ridge then drive down into Teanaway Valley. Views of the Stuart Range are breathtaking. Less than a mile below Teanaway Ridge is a small pond nestled among the trees. A stop here may reward you with a glimpse of deer, elk or other forest critters lapping at the pond. Take Teanaway Road to Highway 970 back to Cle Elum.



This fall, enjoy the national forests in all their dazzling glory. To assist national forest visitors, the Fall Color Hotline provides weekly updates on fall foliage color changes throughout the nation.

The toll-free hotline supplies callers with an automated voice system for hearing weekly updates on peak color in different regions of the country. The same information is available on the Forest Service's World Wide Web site at: www.fs.fed.us/news/fallcolors

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

Drive up the Entiat River Road 38 miles to the end of the road. Along the way the road passes through orchards, dry pine forests and rocky gorges with the Entiat River flowing nearby. Look for large old trees along the road. Stop to see how many people it takes to link hands around one of these huge trees. In the summer, take a short hike on the Silver Falls Trail where you can enjoy the cool spray from the waterfalls.

METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

Road 39 to Long Swamp Campground is especially beautiful in the fall when aspen and western larches paint color across the mountainsides. The last little bit of the drive goes through the area burned by the Tripod Fire; not traditionally pretty but interesting none-the-less. Stop in at Long Swamp Campground (Northwest Forest pass required) for a picnic lunch before turning back or continuing on to Conconully or Winthrop.

NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

Take Highway 410 to Mather Memorial Parkway to Chinook Pass to Cayuse Pass and back to Highway 12 over White Pass into the Tieton drainage. You will pass by many beautiful lakes, enjoy great views at summit passes, and see alpine flowers in the spring and vibrantly colored leaves in the fall.

TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

For those driving in the northern-most areas of the forest, northeast of Tonasket, take a drive in the Beaver Canyon area. The road through Beaver Canyon is paved; this route also passes through the Five Lakes area. With lakes for fishing, picnic areas, trails and options for loop routes (unpaved) it's a great way to spend an afternoon.

WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

For a fun loop drive, travel north from Leavenworth on Highway 2 to Smithbrook Road, then over to Lake Wenatchee, next to Plain, returning to Leavenworth on the Chumstick Road. This almost 70-mile-long loop route passes through beautiful canyons, mountain meadows, forests and ends back in the quaint Bavarian theme village of Leavenworth.

So, load the family in the car and head to the woods for a leisurely Sunday drive. Don't forget the snacks, they were always a great incentive for me to "be good" and not tease my sisters on our long ago outings. Challenge the kids, the first one to see an osprey or a deer (or whatever critter you select) gets the M&Ms, yum!

Call individual ranger district offices for complete driving directions. ■

A SUNDAY DRIVE IN THE WOODS

BY ROBIN DEMARIO



FALL COLOR HOTLINE



In the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, dependent upon local weather conditions, leaf color change usually starts in late September and early October. Color changes are primarily brought on by the increasing hours of darkness, but the timing and length of the fall color season is also affected by local weather.

Fall Color Hotline:

800-354-4595

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

THE ACT WITH A LONG NAME AND BIG DOLLARS COMES TO AN END

BY ROBIN DEMARIO



If someone were to ask what the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act was, most people would get a glazed look in their eyes and quickly move on to a different topic. Although the name is long, the money that this Federal Act provided has incredibly benefitted four North Central Washington counties.

During the last 11 years, over 300 natural resource projects totaling \$6.8 million have been funded on National Forest lands in Okanogan, Chelan, Yakima and Kittitas Counties as a result of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Unfortunately, funding from this Act ends on September 30, 2012.

This Act provides payments to local counties as compensation for the impact of large federal land acreages within their boundaries, guaranteeing a secure level of payments for schools and roads and allowing monies to be devoted to projects that benefit national forest lands.

A specially appointed 15-member Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is responsible for reviewing proposed projects each year and recommending which should go forward for Forest Service approval. Committee members are residents of each of the four counties and represent a wide variety of citizen interests including user interests, industry, tribal, and local governmental representatives.

"Most of the members have stuck with this committee for the past 11 years, that is incredible! We are so appreciative of their time and efforts," said Forest Supervisor Becki Heath.

"Choosing worthy projects is difficult, since many more requests for funding are received than there are monies available. RAC members have to stretch the available dollars to do as much good as possible, which is not an easy task," Heath said.

Projects getting the nod from the Committee are generally those that are a high priority for the national forest. Consideration is also given to project proposals supported by commissioners in the county where they are located. Project proposals have come from a variety of proponents including local ranger districts, volunteer organizations, and state, county and local government.

Over the years, \$1.6 million worth of work has been approved for funding in Chelan County, \$2.2 million in Okanogan County, \$1.8 million in Kittitas County, and \$1.2 million in Yakima County.

"Many of these projects would not have been funded, or completed as quickly, without these monies," Heath said. "So much good has been accomplished, involving so many natural resource partners; it is a shame to see this program end."

Following are examples of natural resource projects paid for with Secure Rural Schools Act funding:

- Numerous noxious weed control and inventory projects
- Prescribed burning and underburning projects
- Forest thinning for improved forest health and fire hazard reduction
- Pre-commercial thinning and fuels reduction
- County inmate crew tree thinning, limbing and hand piling to reduce fire risk
- Irrigation and development of a well
- Meadow restoration work
- Installation and replacement of toilet facilities at (Swiftwater Picnic Area, Aeneas Springs Hunter Camp, Red Top Lookout, and the Old Powerhouse Site)
- Northwest Youth Corps utilizing youth crews to maintain recreation trails
- Sky Education Program trail based educational experience for at-risk youth
- 4-H Forestry Education program
- Resurfacing/repaving various forest roads (Entiat River Road, Reecer Creek Road, Loup Loup Road)
- Road stabilization projects
- Road decommission/obliteration
- Culvert replacements for improved fish passage and flood control
- Landslide rehabilitation and culvert replacement
- Campground hazard tree removal
- Making campsites accessible to disabled visitors
- Providing picnic tables and fire rings in new campgrounds
- Campground design and restoration
- Relocation of campsites out of sensitive streamside areas
- Removal of roadside vegetation to improve sight distance and driver safety
- Cleaning up illegal dump sites on the forest
- Installation of a bottomless arch in Williams Creek
- Aspen Meadows Irrigation Ditch Diversion Dam replacement
- Log merchandising and processing center
- Native grass and forbs seed collection
- Riparian/floodplain restoration
- Trailhead and trail reconstruction, restoration, relocation and maintenance
- Trail delineation and signage
- Installation of trail bridges
- Robinson Creek ford development
- Sno-Park maintenance and repair
- Sani-can rentals at heavily used recreation sites
- Restoration of Red Top agate beds
- Repairs and maintenance of various forest lookouts
- Mountain weather data station
- Fencing aspen for protection from wildlife and livestock
- Riparian fence maintenance

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

It is not uncommon for large forest projects to take a few years to accomplish. That is the case with the three planning and analysis projects listed below. Public interest in these projects has remained very high as the projects have progressed through their different planning phases. To continue to be informed on the status of these and similar projects, we recommend visiting our Schedule of Proposed Actions web page at www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/projects/sopa.shtml or going to a specific project's web information page listed below.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is proposing changes to motor vehicle use on specific roads, trails and areas within the non-wilderness portion of the forest. Winter, over the snow, motorized use will not be analyzed at this time and is not part of this proposal. Go to www.fs.fed.us/r6/okawen/travel-management for more information.



INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This project proposes to treat known invasive plant infestations and provide a mechanism for treating new infestations under an Early Detection Rapid Response strategy. The purpose of this planning effort is to provide a rapid, more comprehensive, up-to-date approach to control and eradication of invasive plants on the forest. For more information, go to www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=24104

FOREST PLAN REVISION

The Colville and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests are revising their Forest Plans. These plans are a broad set of direction that instructs us how to manage national forest resources. Our current plans are near the end of their intended 10-15-year life cycle. The Colville Forest Plan was completed in 1988, the Okanogan in 1989, and the Wenatchee in 1990. The plans will be revised to reflect resource and social changes on all three Forests, as well as new scientific information. Check out www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan for the latest Forest Plan revision information. ■



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE BIG, LONG-TERM FOREST PROJECTS?

Marijuana growers are active in the nation's national forests and it's important for your safety to be aware of your surroundings.

If you encounter a drug operation, back out immediately! Leave the way you came in, and make as little noise as possible. Never engage the growers as these are extremely dangerous people. If you can identify a landmark or record a GPS coordinate, that's very helpful. The growers may be present and may or may not know that you have found their operation. Get to a safe place and report the encounter to any uniformed member of the Forest Service or to your local law enforcement agency. Report as much detail about the location and incident as you can recall.

Here are some clues that you may have come across a marijuana cultivation site:

- The smell of marijuana, especially on hot days, is like a skunk.

- Hoses or drip lines located in unusual or unexpected places.
- A well-used trail where there shouldn't be one.
- Voices coming from an unusual place.
- People standing along roads without vehicles present, or in areas where loitering appears unusual.
- Grow sites are usually found in isolated locations, in rough steep terrain (typically between 500 to 5,500 feet elevation.)
- Camps containing cooking and sleeping areas with food, fertilizer, weapons, garbage, rat poison, and/or dead animals.
- Small propane bottles (so that the grower avoids detection of wood smoke.)
- Individuals armed with rifles out of hunting season.

BE SAFE IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MARIJUANA CULTIVATION SITE



Visitors are reminded that all hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch and other similar products used or stored on national forest lands must be State certified as weed-free.

Commercially processed feed, such as pellets and steamed rolled grains, are not affected by the rule and should be used on national forest lands if certified hay products are not available.

For information about obtaining weed free feed in Washington, contact the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board at 360-902-2053. This organization manages the Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch program. For information and a list of providers in Washington, please go to www.nwcb.wa.gov ■



REMEMBER, WEED FREE FEED IS REQUIRED IN THE NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

SEARCHING FOR GRIZ

BY BILL GAINES



BILL GAINES, OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, HIGH ABOVE THE NAPEEQUA VALLEY



BEARS INVESTIGATING THE HAIR SNAGGING SITES

It is late in the afternoon and we have been hiking for hours. Lugging gigantic packs full of camping gear, food, clothing and our sampling gear, my tired legs carry me the final few steps to the pass. The effort is worth it. In the fading hours of daylight, I stand peering over the edge of the world into the deep and mysterious Napeequa River valley. Thousands of feet below, already in the deep shadows of evening, the river winds its way down the valley floor, lined on each side by willows and the occasional conifer. The glacial-till laden stream makes its path through one of the wildest landscapes in Washington. On the other side of the valley the last few rays of sunlight dance across the wildly steep, open slopes.

As I sit, swatting mosquitoes and waiting for the other crew members, I wonder—could a grizzly bear still be living in this remote valley?

That is the question we want to answer. The summer of 2010 was the first year of a three-year study to determine whether grizzly bears are indeed living in the North Cascades.

Counting grizzly bears is not an easy task, especially when populations are low and the area they live in is vast and extremely rugged. We know from historical trapping records that the North Cascades once supported a large population of grizzly bears; however, recent evidence of their numbers has been very limited. The last verified sighting of a grizzly bear in the North Cascades occurred in 1996 in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Since then, despite following up on numerous sightings, we have not been able to verify the presence of grizzly bears, though we suspect that a small number are still present.

Remote cameras and the ability to verify species based on DNA that can be extracted from animal hair are tools that we can now use in our search for the elusive North Cascades grizzly.

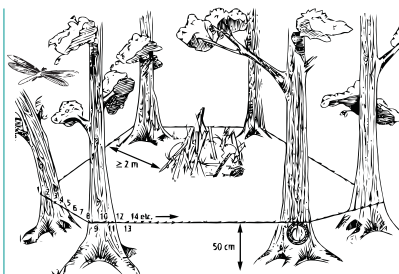
In summer 2010, we placed hair snagging devices (see figure) at 191 sites and operated 47 remote cameras throughout the North Cascades. To date we have reviewed over 6,000 photos from the remote cameras and have images of black bears, cougars, American marten, a possible gray wolf, deer, elk, moose – but no grizzly bear. We are still waiting for results from the 800 hair snags samples we sent to the lab. The first year of the study was extremely successful, and gave us hope for even more success in 2011.

We still have a lot of places to look—remote, wild, and tremendously difficult to access. This means more hiking, hauling heavy backpacks full of equipment and swatting more mosquitoes, but well worth it.

In recent years scientists have learned about wolverines that roam the high and wild places in the North Cascades, wolves have returned after several decades of being absent, and the elusive Canada lynx still roams the boreal forests in the northern portion of the mountain range. But what about grizzly bears? Are these larger carnivores still present in the North Cascades or has a piece of the puzzle gone missing, and if so, what shall we do about it? These are important questions that our study is helping to answer.

Funding for this project comes from US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and a grant from the Seattle City Light. The primary partners that were involved in the field efforts included the North Cascades National Park, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Western Transportation Institute and US Forest Service.

For more information about the North Cascades Rare Carnivore Survey please visit the following website cascadesconnectivity.org.



Hair snagging device used to capture bear hair. A strand of barbed wire is attached to trees with a pile of sticks in the middle. A really, really stinky fluid of fish blood and decayed animal parts is poured over the sticks to attract animals to the site.



Wildlife biologist Jesse McCarty gathers hair captured on the barbed wire after the animal goes over or under the wire to investigate the smelly stick pile.



A blonde-colored black bear approaching one of the hair snagging sites. Blonde-colored black bears are common on the east-side of the Cascades and can make it very difficult to determine a grizzly bear from a black bear; thus the importance of DNA for species verification.



A nighttime photo of three cougars investigating one of the hair snagging and remote camera sampling sites.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's sunny, east-side climate and abundant recreational opportunities draw approximately 3 million visitors each year. Indeed, the forest provides countless recreational opportunities, from visiting with family and friends at one of the 385 developed recreation sites to fishing in one of the many rivers and streams, to hiking, skiing or riding a horse, mountain bike or motorized vehicle on some of the forest's nearly 5,800 miles of trails.

While the majority of recreation opportunities are free, recreation fees are charged at some developed trailheads, campgrounds and day use sites in order to help us provide services like garbage collection, toilet pumping, clean drinking water, interpretive signage and trail maintenance. In addition, fee dollars are used to leverage funds. When used as matches for grants and Title II funding, the value of every fee dollar is multiplied many times over and helps us improve the condition of more trails and facilities than we could with just fee revenue or allocated dollars alone.



A BUSY SUMMER DAY AT BOULDER CAVE DAY USE SITE, NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

Following is a list of some of the accomplishments recreation fees funded in 2010:

- Cleaned and pumped toilets, maintained bulletin boards and provided security patrols and visitor information at campgrounds, trailheads and day use sites supported by recreation fees.
- Completed routine water sampling and water system maintenance, hazard tree surveys and felling, and provided garbage service at fee sites.
- Funded seasonal employees and campground hosts to maintain sites and provide visitor information and assistance.



CAMPGROUND HOSTS AT LUCERNE GUARD STATION, CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

- Staffed Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center to provide visitor information and lead interpretive snowshoe walks in winter.
- Funded six weeks of Washington Trails Association work groups and leveraged grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to complete trail maintenance on 1,100 miles of trail.



TABLE MOUNTAIN A-FRAME AFTER BEING PAINTED, CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

- Purchased two new toilets for Clear Lake Campground.
- Administered the Christmas Tree Program, which funded extended office hours and weekend patrols.
- Groomed Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area ski trails and plowed and maintained the access road and parking lot. ❄️

FEES HELPING TO KEEP RECREATION SITES OPEN FOR YOU

BY BRENDA YANKOVIK



SKIER ENJOYING ECHO RIDGE NORDIC SKI AREA, CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

- Funded the design work of Prince Creek Dock replacement on Lake Chelan.
- Within the Enchantment Lakes permit area, funded four wilderness rangers to patrol and maintain the trail system, and annual helicopter installation and removal of backcountry toilets to provide for visitor health and resource protection.

Recreation fees directly contribute to the upkeep of Forest Service campgrounds, trailheads and other recreation sites. We work hard to spend your fees wisely, and we value your feedback and suggestions. For more information about the Recreation Fee program and accomplishments, please go to the Region 6 recreation fee webpage at www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits or contact Assistant Recreation Program Manager Brenda Yankovik at 509-664-9200. ■

TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

MEET THE NEW DISTRICT RANGER

Dale Olson, district ranger on the Tonasket Ranger District since June 2010, grew up and went to college in Idaho. After several years working in ranching, forestry, and fish and wildlife related fields, Dale began his career with the Forest Service as a fisheries biologist. Since that time, he worked in a variety of roles from environ-



mental coordinator to district ranger. He and his family enjoy small town life and are happy to call Tonasket home.

As district ranger, Dale's primary objective is to support and encourage Tonasket District employees in the work they do. He's particularly interested in providing good customer service and enhancing recreational opportunities on the district.

When not at work, Dale and his family spend a lot of time exploring this beautiful country! ■

TRIPOD FIRE – A LANDSCAPE FOR LEARNING

BY SHANNON O'BRIEN

2011 marks the fifth year the Tonasket Ranger District will host GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) students in their "Tripod: A Landscape for Learning" program. GEAR UP is a program for low income areas that emphasizes proficiency in science and math.

During the week of June 14th high school students from Okanogan Valley school districts will be working with natural resource professionals in the Tripod Fire affected landscape. Inspired by the national movement "More Kids in the Woods," the program introduces children to the ecological processes taking place in their own backyards. It also helps them develop a sense of place, an understanding that things occurring in the natural world affect them and that decisions they make now and as adults affect these processes.

On July 27, 2006, the lightning ignited Tripod Fire burned 175,185 acres in beetle killed lodgepole

pine and spruce forests. This natural event radically changed the "backyard" of children living in the Okanogan area. The fire-altered landscape offers a prime opportunity for kids to watch the changes that occur in the post fire landscape over time.

Research suggests there is a connection between physical activity and learning. It doesn't take a research project, however, to see how much the kids love pounding in stakes and counting the plants growing in the burned area. They love digging soil pits and seeing burn intensities marked by the color of the dirt, watching woodpeckers, seeing chickadees flying from woodpecker holes, chasing insects with nets and staring at aquatic life under dissecting microscopes. The adults have fun



too, and enthusiastically return each year.

GEAR UP students can obtain long-lasting understanding of ecological processes and concepts. Students can also explore careers in natural resources. Through their efforts, not only is valuable monitoring data gained, but more importantly a new generation of stewards is emerging with lifelong interest in the state and health of the environment. ■



PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT: JOHN HAGAN, BIOLOGIST FOR WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, HELPING A STUDENT LEARN TO USE A COMPASS TO MARK AN ECOLOGY PLOT. ABOVE, A VOLUNTEER FROM CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IS HELPING KIDS SET UP THE PLOT.

Common Loon *Gavia immer*

Diet: Carnivore

Average life span: 25 to 30 years

Weight: 7 to 10 pounds



Where you can see them: At Bonaparte Lake, Lost Lake, Beth Lake, Beaver Lake and Crawfish Lake. Also, at Fish Lake and Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin Valley.

Loons are a group of aquatic birds found in many parts of North America and northern Europe and Asia.

They are the size of a large duck or small goose. Their very distinctive wailing cries can be heard at great distances. Male and female loons have identical black-and-white plumage.

Loons are excellent swimmers. They can dive more than 200 feet below the surface of the water in search of food. They use their pointy bills to stab or grasp small fish, amphibians and insects.

Loons build their nests at the water's edge because they have difficulty walking on land. Both male and female jointly build the nest and incubate the young.

ENJOY A WALK IN THE WOODS



BY SHANNON O'BRIEN



WESTERN LARCH

For a great way to spend an afternoon, take a day hike on one of the many Tonasket Ranger District trails. Don't forget to bring a camera because these trails lead to rocky bluffs overlooking valleys, wind through open ponderosa pine stands and meander through beautiful fields of wildflowers.

The 5-Lakes recreation area, northeast of Tonasket, is a popular recreation destination. Two of the shortest and easiest hikes in that area are Big Tree Trail and Beth Lake Trail. For longer and more difficult hikes, try Virginia Lilly Trail or the trail to the fire lookout on Bonaparte Mountain.

The family-friendly Big Tree Trail starts at Lost Lake Campground and connects with a 0.7 mile long loop trail showcasing two huge 600-year old western larch trees. There are several benches along this easy path and many people take a dip in the refreshingly cool water of Lost Lake. It is particularly beautiful in June when the wildflowers are blooming.

Beth Lake Trail is about 10 miles southeast of Chewas, Washington. It follows the lakeshore along the back side of Beaver Lake through Beth Lake Campground, across a small earth dam and

along the far side of Beth Lake. It is a short hike, just shy of two miles, so bring along a fishing pole to cast a line and a picnic lunch to enjoy at the campground.

Virginia Lilly Trail takes off from the trailhead on Forest Service Road No. 3240, northeast of Bonaparte Lake. It winds through ponderosa pine and mixed conifer old growth forest. The two mile long trail is moderately difficult with some fairly steep climbs. Along the way, expect views of the North Cascades range extending into Canada, the Toroda Creek Valley and the Kettle Range. Remember to bring drinking water.

For a 360-degree view from atop a 7,257-foot mountaintop, try the four and a half mile trip up to Bonaparte Lookout. The lookout tower is staffed during the summer months and the historic lookout cabin, built in 1914, is on site. This trail is a bit of an uphill climb, earning it a "more difficult" rating. Bonaparte Lookout Trail is open to horseback riders, hikers, bicyclists and motorcycles.

Additional trail information can be found online at www.fs.fed.us/r6/oka/recreation or by calling the Tonasket District office at 509-486-2186 during business hours. ■

CAMPGROUNDS - NORTH HALF

CAMPGROUNDS - North Half of Forest

SITE MATRIX

Site Name	Map Location	Facilities and Activities	Campsites
Alpine Meadows	G-12	▲ \$ 🐕 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	4
Antillon Lake	M-13	▲ 🏠 🚰	10
Atkinson Flat	G-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶	6
Ballard	J-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	7
Beaver Lake	W-2	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶	11
Beth Lake	W-2	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	15
Black Pine	F-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	14
Black Pine Lake	L-9	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	23
Bonaparte Lake	W-3	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	28
Bridge Creek (S)	G-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Buck Lake	M-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	9
Camp Four	M-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	5
Cascade Creek	J-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	1
Chatter Creek	F-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	12
Chewuch	M-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	16
Chiwawa	G-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	21
Corral Creek	K-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	4
Cottonwood (Entiat RD)	H-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	30
Cottonwood (Tonasket RD)	Q-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	4
Crawfish Lake	V-6	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	19
Deer Point	L-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Domke Falls	J-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Domke Lake	J-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Early Winters	K-6	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	12
Eightmile	G-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	45
Falls Creek	M-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	7
Finner Creek	G-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	3
Flat	M-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	12
Foggy Dew	M-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	13
Fox Creek	J-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	16
Glacier View	G-14	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	23
Goose Creek	H-14	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	29
Graham Harbor	J-11	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	5
Graham Harbor Creek	J-11	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	5
Grouse Creek	H-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	1
Grouse Mountain	L-12	▲ 🏠 🚰	4
Handy Spring	K-12	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	1
Harts Pass	H-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	5
Hatchery Camp	J-10	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	2
Holden Ballpark	G-10	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	2
Honeymoon	L-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰	5
Ida Creek	G-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	10
Johnny Creek	G-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	65
JR	P-8	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	6
Junior Point	K-12	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	5
Kerr	Q-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	13

Site Name	Map Location	Facilities and Activities	Campsites
Klipchuck	J-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	46
Lake Creek	J-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	18
Lone Fir	H-6	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	27
Long Swamp	P-2	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	2
Lost Lake	V-2	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	19
Loup Loup	P-8	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	25
Lucerne	J-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	3
Lyman Lake	W-6	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	4
Meadows	H-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	14
Mitchell Creek	M-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	7
Moore Point	H-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Mystery	K-8	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Napeequa Crossing	F-13	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	5
Nason Creek	H-15	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	73
Nice	L-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	3
Nineteenmile	G-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
North Fork	J-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	8
Oriole	Q-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	10
Phelps Creek	G-11	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 ? 🚶 🚴	13
Pine Flat	K-15	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Prince Creek	J-11	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Poplar Flat	J-8	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	16
Refrigerator Harbor	J-10	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Riverbend (Wenatchee R. RD)	G-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	6
River Bend (Methow RD)	J-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	5
Roads End	J-7	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Rock Creek	G-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Rock Island	F-17	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	22
Ruffed Grouse	L-4	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	4
Safety Harbor	K-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Salmon Meadows	P-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	7
Schaefer Creek	G-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	10
Silver Falls	J-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 ?	31
Snowberry Bowl	L-13	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	9
South Creek	J-7	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
South Navarre	L-11	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Spruce Grove	J-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	2
Stuart Camp	J-10	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	2
Sugarloaf	Q-5	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	4
Three Creek	H-12	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	3
Tiffany Springs	P-4	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	6
Tumwater	H-16	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	84
Twisp River Horse Camp	J-7	▲ \$ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	12
War Creek	K-8	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴 🚶 🚴	10
White River Falls	F-13	▲ 🏠 🚰	5
Windy Camp	L-13	▲ 🏠 🚰 🚶 🚴	2

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES LEGEND

🏠 Site Fee	🏠 Reservations	🐕 Pets on Leash	🏠 Horse Facilities	📍 Point of Interest	🚣 Rafting
🏠 NW Forest Pass	🏠 Rental Cabin	📍 Amphitheater	📍 Interpretive Trail	📍 Viewpoint	🏠 Swimming
🏠 Camping	🏠 Picnic Area	📍 Information	📍 Bicycle Trail	📍 Climbing	🏠 Fishing
🏠 Group Camping	🏠 Picnic Shelter	📍 Trailhead	📍 Motorcycle Trail	📍 Launching Ramp	🏠 Winter Recreation
🏠 Horse Camp	🏠 Restrooms	📍 Hiking Trail	📍 Trail Shelter	📍 Boating	🏠 Cross Country Skiing
🏠 Trailer Sites	📍 Drinking Water	📍 Horse Trail	📍 OHV Area	📍 Small Boat Access	🏠 Snowshoeing
🏠 Trailer Sanitary Station	📍 Showers				🏠 Not Accessible by car (boat or hike in)

📍 Solid BLUE symbol indicates accessibility



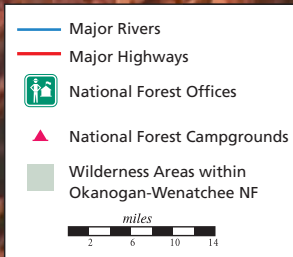
OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST



*A Great Place
to go Camping!*

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Location Map



Background photo: Sunset on the peaks above the Enchantment Lakes

CAMPGROUNDS - SOUTH HALF

CAMPGROUNDS - South Half of Forest			
SITE MATRIX		Map Location	Campsites
Site Name	Facilities and Activities		
American Forks	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	13
American Ridge Lodge	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	1
American River Guard Station	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	1
Beverly	G-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	14
Black Pine	F-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	10
Bridge Creek	G-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	6
Cayuse	E-19	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	13
Cedar Springs	D-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	15
Chatter Creek	F-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	12
Cle Elum River	E-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	23
Clear Lake North	C-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	33
Clear Lake South	C-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	22
Cottonwood (Naches RD)	E-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	16
Cougar Flat	D-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	12
Crow Creek	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	15
De Roux	F-19	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	6
Dog Lake	C-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	11
Eightmile	G-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	45
Fish Lake	E-18	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	56
Halfway Flat	E-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	9
Hause Creek	E-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	42
Hells Crossing	C-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	18
Icewater Creek	F-23	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	14
Ida Creek	G-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	10
Indian Creek	D-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	39
Indian Flat	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	22
Johnny Creek	G-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	65
Kachess	D-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	143
Kaner Flat	D-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	41

SITE MATRIX		Map Location	Campsites
Site Name	Facilities and Activities		
Ken Wilcox	J-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	19
Little Naches	E-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	21
Lower Bumping Lake	C-26	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	23
Lodgepole	B-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	23
Manastash	F-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	25
Mineral Springs	H-21	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	12
Owhi	D-19	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	22
Peninsula	E-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	19
Pine Needle	C-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	8
Pleasant Valley	C-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	16
Red Mountain	E-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	10
Riders Camp	F-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	10
Rock Island	F-17	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	22
Salmon Cove	C-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	15
Salmon La Sac	E-19	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	60
Sawmill Flat	E-24	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	24
Soda Springs	D-25	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	5
South Fork	D-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	10
South Fork Tieton	D-29	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	8
Swauk	H-20	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	22
Taneum	F-23	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	13
Taneum Junction	F-23	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	15
Tieton Pond	E-27	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	5
Tumwater	H-16	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	84
Upper Bumping Lake	C-26	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	45
White Pass	C-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	16
Willows	F-28	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	16
Windy Point	G-27	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	15
Wish Poosh	E-21	▲ \$ ▲ R ▲ TH ▲	34

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES LEGEND

▲ Site Fee	▲ Reservations	▲ Pets on Leash	▲ Horse Facilities	▲ Point of Interest	▲ Rafting
▲ Camping	▲ Rental Cabin	▲ Amphitheater	▲ Interpretive Trail	▲ Viewpoint	▲ Swimming
▲ Group Camping	▲ Picnic Area	▲ Information	▲ Bicycle Trail	▲ Climbing	▲ Fishing
▲ Horse Camp	▲ Picnic Shelter	▲ Trailhead	▲ Motorcycle Trail	▲ Launching Ramp	▲ Winter Recreation
▲ Trailer Sites	▲ Restrooms	▲ Hiking Trail	▲ Trail Shelter	▲ Boating	▲ Cross Country Skiing
▲ Trailer Sanitary Station	▲ Drinking Water	▲ Horse Trail	▲ OHV Area	▲ Small Boat Access	▲ Snowshoeing
▲ Showers					▲ Not Accessible by car (boat or hike in)

Solid BLUE symbol indicates accessibility



METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

Skirting more than 50 miles of Canada's border and encompassing the crest of the Cascade Mountains, the 529,477-acre Pasayten Wilderness is home to the largest population of lynx in the lower 48 contiguous states. The Wilderness boasts almost 150 peaks over 7,500 feet in elevation, over 160 bodies of water, and at least as many waterways — some fierce enough to have carved sheer walled canyons. Rugged ridges in the west flatten out into park-like plateaus toward the east. Its diverse forest changes from fir, cedar and western hemlock, vegetation typical in western Washington, to fir, pine and larch trees more typically found in eastern Washington.

Deer, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, gray wolf and the intimidating grizzly bear steal through these woods. Snow falls between October and May; it may cover the high west side trails sometimes until early August. East side trails are usually free of snow by early July. Although part of the Wilderness lies in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the largest section, and its management, falls within the boundaries of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

More than 600 miles of trails provide access to the Wilderness. Many of them start out deceptively gentle becoming progressively challenging as they crawl up endless switchbacks into the high country. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses the area north to south for about 32 miles. The 73 mile long Boundary Trail travels north from the southeast corner to ramble near the Canadian border, making it the longest route in the Wilderness before eventually joining the PCT.

With more and more people visiting the Pasayten Wilderness each year the impacts to this special place have increased. To enhance your wilderness experience and guarantee this enjoyment for future generations, please practice the following Leave No Trace camping techniques.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Know local regulations and prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.

Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

Keep campsites small.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack out all trash.

Deposit solid human waste in holes dug six to eight inches deep at least 200 feet from water, campsite and trails.

Wash yourself and cookware 200 feet from streams or lakes.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Preserve the past; examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.

Where fires are permitted, keep fires small, use established fire rings or fire pans and extinguish fires completely.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

Never feed animals. Store rations and trash securely.

Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Respect other visitors, be courteous and yield to other users on the trail.

Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. ■

PASAYTEN WILDERNESS

BY TOMMY DAYS

Red Tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Diet: Carnivore (eats rodents, small birds and snakes)

Average life span: 10 to 21 years

Size: Body, 18 to 26 inches; wing-span, 38 to 43 inches; females are about 25 percent heavier than males

Weight: 24 to 51 ounces

Did you know? The young are known as eyasses (pronounced "EYE-ess-ess").

Where you can see them: Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration station from August to October. Open fields in the winter and nearly everywhere in the summer.

These beautiful birds are North America's most common hawks. The short, broad red tail on adults, which gives this species its name, is uniformly brick-red colored above and pinkish below.

Red-tails often prefer open areas, such as fields or shrub lands with trees nearby from which they can watch for prey.

Red-tailed hawks mate for life. They make stick nests high above the ground, in which the female lays one to five eggs each spring. Both sexes incubate the eggs and feed the young.



REMMELE MOUNTAIN IN THE PASAYTEN WILDERNESS



There are many fire lookouts in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Of the two active fire lookouts in the Methow Valley, Leecher Mountain Lookout is the only one accessible by vehicle. The road to the lookout is heavily rutted and sloughing off in places, so high clearance four-wheeled drive vehicles are strongly recommended when driving to this lookout.

In 1918 the first lookout on Leecher Mountain was a tree stand, the top being cut out of a Douglas fir tree and a platform built on the topless tree. This tree is still there and is located approximately 1,000 feet south of the present tower.

In 1921, a 45-foot steel windmill tower with a 6 x 6-foot cab was built, along with an 18 x 22-foot log cabin. In 1936 the log cabin was replaced by an L-4 cab for living quarters.

Big changes occurred in 1954 when the steel tower was removed from the mountain and placed at the North Cascades Smoke Jumper Base for use

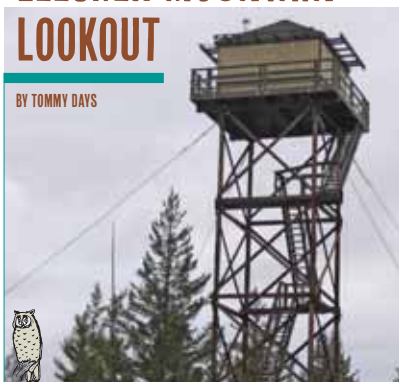
as a training tower for rookie jumpers. The ground-mounted L-4 cabin was moved to Slate Peak Lookout; it was destroyed two years later in preparation for a radar station to be built. Unfortunately, the U.S. Air Force never built the radar station.

The present 41-foot treated timber tower with L-4 cab was constructed in 1954 with the cab coming from Chiliwist Butte Lookout, 10 miles to the east. Leecher Mountain Lookout is on the National Historical Register.

How to get there: From Carlton, Washington, travel 5.2 miles west on Highway 153 until you come to the Benson Creek Road (county road 1703). Make a right turn and continue 2.4 miles to where the road becomes Forest Road No. 4150. Continue on Road No. 4150 for 7.4 miles and make a right turn on forest road No. 4150-100; proceed 2.9 miles to the lookout. ■

LEECHER MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

BY TOMMY DAYS



CASCADE LOOKOUT ■ 13

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

A CHANCE TO SEE SPAWNING SALMON

BY NANCY JONES



There was a time when salmon were plentiful in the waters of the Kittitas Valley. Cold clear waters born of winter snows provided the birthplace for salmon. Salmon were an essential link in a chain of life unbroken for tens of thousands of years.

In the 20th century though, salmon all but disappeared from the waters of the Kittitas Valley. Only Kokanee, a land locked Sockeye salmon to whom Cle Elum, Kachess and Keechelus Lakes served as home, and less than 1,000 Chinook salmon remained. Pollution, over fishing, and dams are a few of the factors that led to their decline.

But now, due to the tireless efforts of the Yakama Nation, with support from the Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, salmon have returned to the waters of the Kittitas Valley.

In 1997 a hatchery was built on the Yakima River near its confluence with the Cle Elum River where Chinook salmon are reared. Before the fingerlings are released into the river,

they are held in acclimation ponds on the Yakima River and its tributaries. As a result, they imprint on the stream where they are held and will return there to spawn.

In 2009 and 2010, Sockeye salmon were captured in the Columbia River and transported to Cle Elum Lake where they were released. These fish spent the summer months in Cle Elum Lake before venturing into the Cle Elum River to spawn.

As a result of these two projects, visitors to the Cle Elum Ranger District in September and October can view the end result—spawning salmon!

Chinook can be seen in the Cle Elum River a half mile downstream from Cle Elum Dam. A one mile hike along a primitive road and trail leads to benches located on the riverbank at the spawning grounds. Sockeye are easily viewed from the Cle Elum River Bridge on Cooper Lake Road/FS Road 46. Kokanee can be spotted in Gold Creek, from the bridge on Forest Road 4832, or from a foot bridge on the barrier-free trail that circles Gold Creek Pond off of I-90 at exit 54.

Please do not disturb or harass the salmon. They are at a critical time in their lives and it is crucial that they be allowed to carry out their final act undisturbed so that future generations of salmon can return and flourish. They have come full circle; it is now their season to spawn and to die making it possible for their young to start the cycle again. ■

THE LEGEND OF WISHPOOSH AND SPEELYI

A STORY OF CREATION AND RECREATION

BY NANCY JONES



Beaver *Castor canadensis*

Diet: Herbivore

Average life span: 16 to 20 years

Weight: 33 to 77 pounds and they are about 3 feet long.

Group name: Colony

Where you can see them: Beavers dams can be seen in Williams Creek, along FS Road 9737 in the North Fork Teanaway River, and at Gold Creek Pond near Snoqualmie Pass.

Beavers are the largest rodent in North America. They can remain underwater for 15 minutes without surfacing, and have a set of transparent eyelids that function much like goggles. Their fur is naturally oily and waterproof. They use their flat, scaly tail both to signal danger by slapping the surface of the water and as a location for fat storage.

Beavers are most famous for their dam-building. The purpose of the dam is to provide water around their lodges (domelike homes) that is deep enough that it does not freeze solid in winter.

Beavers usually mate for life. The young beaver "kits" typically remain with their parents for up to two years.



BEAVER HOME ON A SMALL LAKE ON THE CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

Native American lore tells of Wishpoosh, the monster beaver who lived in the waters of Lake Cle Elum. The lake was full of fish, yet each time the animal people went there to fish, Wishpoosh would drown them. The animal people grew tired of this and asked Speelyi, the Coyote, to help them.

Speelyi lashed a great spear to his wrist, dove into the lake and speared Wishpoosh. An epic battle ensued. They fought so hard that the water spilled out of the lake and carried them down valleys and over mountains, tearing great gaps in the land that would become the Cle Elum, Yakima and Columbia Rivers. In the end, they plunged into the ocean where Speelyi killed Wishpoosh, cut his body into pieces and flung them across the land. These pieces became the Native Peoples of the Northwest.

Today, families from around the Northwest enjoy recreating at Wishpoosh Campground. Nestled in a dense conifer forest on the shore of Cle Elum Lake, the campground offers a picnic area, unguarded swim beach and boat ramp as well as 34 multi-use campsites. Potable water is available, hookups are not. Day use fee is \$7.00 and campsites are \$18.00. Groves of cottonwood scattered along the lakeshore provide homes to a variety of birds as well as food and building materials for beaver.

Speelyi Beach is located on the southern shore of Cle Elum Lake. Sandy shores make this the most popular day use area on the lake. Swimming,

sunbathing, boating and jet skiing are all popular activities at Speelyi Beach. The beach is crowded on weekends; a mid-week visit will at times offer near solitude. Facilities are limited to a small parking area and a vault toilet. There is no fee to recreate at Speelyi Beach.

Speelyi Beach is located eight miles north of Cle Elum on Lake Cabins Road on Highway 903. Wishpoosh Campground is 10 miles north of Cle Elum on Highway 903.

Cle Elum Lake is a natural lake that was enhanced with a dam to store irrigation water in the early 20th century. The best time to visit is from Memorial Day through late July, after that the lake level recedes rapidly as waters are released for irrigation. ■



A BEAVER HAS BEEN CHEWING ON THIS COTTONWOOD TREE

CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

Surrounded by massive snow-capped peaks and paralleling the glistening Lake Chelan just feet below, the Lakeshore Trail is the first spring wilderness trail open on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Lakeshore Trail's 17.5 rolling miles from Prince Creek to Stehekin is just what a hiker needs to jump-start their backcountry hiking season.

If you don't have your own boat, travel aboard the Lady of the Lake II passenger ferry to Prince Creek or Moore Point campgrounds to start your hike. Moore Point and Prince Creek are called "flag" stops. The ferry will stop by request, or if flagged down from the designated docks.

Prince Creek is where many backpackers begin the Lakeshore Trail. The trailhead is located just west of the camping area. Along the way you will cross a number of creeks and see plenty of wildflowers and wildlife. There are no roads or cell phone coverage. Be watchful for ticks and rattle-

snakes commonly found along the trail. Follow the well-marked trail to Cascade Creek Shelter or continue trekking another four miles to Moore Point Campground.

The next stop is Hunts Bluff, the highest point on the trail at 1,600 feet, with panoramic views of towering peaks. Drop back to the shoreline for the final stretch past the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (NRA) boundary to reach Flick Creek, one last camping stop before Stehekin. This is the only camping area in the NRA where a backcountry permit is not mandatory. Four miles past Flick Creek, you reach the unique community of Stehekin. Relax and enjoy the stillness there before catching the afternoon ferry back to Chelan. ■

TRAVEL THE LAKESHORE OF LAKE CHELAN

BY ELKA MISSAL



Even if you don't own a motorboat you can still enjoy camping in upper Lake Chelan. Start your journey by boarding the Lady of the Lake II passenger ferry at Field's Point Landing. In two hours you'll arrive at Lucerne Landing where your camping adventure begins. Four no-fee developed campgrounds and numerous nearby trails are yours to explore.

From the ferry dock it's just a 10-minute walk to Lucerne Campground where there is potable water, three picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilet and several tent sites. Relax on one of the benches surrounding the boat basin, and enjoy the panoramic view of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. The boat basin also offers a cool shallow swimming spot.

Refrigerator Harbor Campground can be reached via a short lakeside trail from Lucerne Campground, or a hike from the ferry dock to the end of the road. This shady campground is 40 feet above the lake and provides terrific views.

An Adirondack shelter, four picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilet and large tent area await you.

You will love Domke Lake Campground, a popular day hike destination. It is a three and a half mile climb to reach this stunning 271-acre crystal clear lake accessible only by trail or floatplane. There are three picnic tables, fire rings, tent sites, pit toilet, a small sandy beach and relatively warm water for swimming. Added amenities include the small rustic fishing resort's row boats, canoes and motors for rent.

Near Holden Village lies the small, two-campsite Ballpark Campground. With picnic tables, fire rings and pit toilet, the campground is set in a spectacular U-shaped valley surrounded by Glacier Peak Wilderness. Ballpark Campground is 13 trail miles from Lucerne; you can hike there or ride the Holden bus 11 miles to the village, then hike three quarters of a mile beyond the village to the campground. The per person bus charge is \$10 one-way/\$15 round trip.

Whichever location you choose, all upper Lake Chelan campsites offer great camping adventures. Enjoy your stay. ■



VIEW OF LAKE CHELAN FROM DOMKE LAKE TRAIL

For those looking for hiking and mountain biking opportunities near Chelan, the Echo Ridge summer trail system has something to offer just about everyone. The trail system is just over 10 miles from downtown Chelan and provides easy access to almost 25 miles of smooth trails. Originally designed as a Nordic Ski system, the trails are also well used in the summer.

The trail system has been popular with mountain bikers for many years, and the numbers of hikers and trail runners increases every year. Trail enthusiasts can choose from a wide variety of trails offering easy to moderate rolling terrain. The numerous loop options range from less than a mile to over 10 miles.

The "summer" trail season at Echo Ridge normally extends from May well into the fall due to the lower elevation of the trails. Spring and fall are the prime times to visit Echo Ridge, but it's easy to beat the summer heat by using the trails in the morning or evening hours. An added bonus is the absence of mosquitoes.

Navigating the trails is easy due to very good signage and maps posted at all the major intersections. Make sure to add the Ridge View Trail to your itinerary, as it affords some of the most spectacular views on the system.

No matter which trail you take, commanding views of Lake Chelan, the North Cascades and Stuart Range are just around the corner. Come hike or bike the Ridge! ■

FUN AND INEXPENSIVE CAMPING ADVENTURES

BY MARGI PETERSON

Mountain Goat *Oreamnos americanus*

Diet: Herbivore

Average life span: 9 to 12 years

Weight: 100 to 300 pounds

Where you can see them: In rocky areas along the south shore of Lake Chelan up lake from 25-Mile Creek and along the north shore up lake from Safety Harbor Creek.



Mountain goats are not true goats, but they are close relatives and are only found in North America.

They have large cloven hooves with two toes that spread wide to improve balance. Mountain goats can jump nearly 12 feet in a single bound.

Males (known as billies) usually live alone or with one or two other male goats. Both male and female mountain goats have beards and 6-12 inch black horns (all longer in the males).

In the spring, a female (nanny) goat gives birth to one or two kids.

HIKE OR BIKE THE RIDGE

BY PAUL WILLARD



ENTIAH RANGER DISTRICT

A TALE OF THE LOWER MAD RIVER TRAIL

BY MASON SCHUUR

THE HISTORY

On July 24, 1994, lightning ignited the Tyee Fire on the Entiat Ranger District. This major wildfire burned for 33 days and spread across 135,000 acres of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Fire behavior was extreme, something that many firefighters had never seen before. The massive fire produced large rotating columns, generated its own lightning and inundated the Wenatchee, Entiat and Chelan valleys in thick smoke.

The Lower Mad River drainage was the epicenter for this major wildfire. It burned with such high intensity that many areas along the Lower Mad River Trail No. 1409 were drastically altered, effectively reducing trail quality, visitor safety and recreational opportunities. The fire killed many large trees and eliminated most of the understory and vegetation in sections of the lower canyon, creating potentially dangerous conditions such as falling trees, landslides, rock fall, and areas with hollow, collapsible ground, caused by fire burning out underground root systems.

Due to the fire and the resulting unsafe conditions, the Lower Mad River Trail was closed for several years. Once it re-opened it remained inaccessible much of the time. Forest Service trail crews regularly spent weeks clearing the trail only to have new windfall come down almost immediately, blocking access and prompting trail users to create new trails around obstacles.



The new user-built trails resulted in unsightly ground scars, resource damage and increased erosion. With the loss of ground cover, the trail would wash away or be covered by rocks and landslides blocking access and limiting recreation opportunities. In addition, increased runoff and natural channel migration repeatedly submerged sections of the trail near the river's edge. Some trail users would get trapped due to these conditions and spend all night hiking out via other routes or have to experience an unexpected night in the woods under the stars. All of these factors resulted in the overall degradation of a once high quality, much loved trail.

THE RESTORATION PROJECT

The Lower Mad River Trail Relocation Project is designed to bring back this important trail to its pre-fire condition and relocate it away from riparian zones, flood areas, hazardous snag stands, and unstable slopes. Once the project is finished there will be reduced erosion, improved fish habitat and access to safe recreation opportunities. This is a two-phased project; phase one has been completed and phase two is expected to be finished by fall 2011.



PHASE ONE

The first phase of the project encompassed the initial six miles of the trail, beginning in Pine Flat Campground. This phase included rehabilitation of existing trail tread, as well as the relocation of a mile and a half of trail near Windy Creek.

Tread work restored the trail to Forest Service standards. Drainage features were constructed, and obstacles, such as root wads and large boulders, were removed. Relocating the trail above the high water line provided the opportunity to re-vegetate the riparian zone and restore the natural stream processes, aiding in the restoration of the river's ecosystem.

Completed in fall 2009, and open for business in the spring of 2010, the first six miles of the Lower Mad Trail now offers a variety of recreational activities. Wildflower viewing is very popular in the spring due to this areas low elevation, early snow melt and abundant sunshine. The canyon hosts a dazzling variety of flowering plants, one of the beautiful benefits to wildfire recovery. Rocky outcrops and ledges support healthy populations of Tweedy's Lewisia (Lewisia tweedyi), → a beautiful rare flower only found in the mountains around Wenatchee, the Methow Valley and B.C.'s Similkameen Valley.



At the six-mile point trail users reach Camp Nine, located at the end of Forest Service Road 300 accessed from Road 5703. This is a great spot for early season mountain biking. By staging two vehicles, one at Pine Flat Campground and the other and Camp 9, a mountain biker can enjoy the long, nearly all downhill ride back to the campground.

PHASE TWO

The second phase, started in 2010, should be completed by fall 2011 with the trail opening in summer 2012. This phase involves the rehabilitation of eight and a half miles of existing trail tread and the relocation of a half mile of trail above a reoccurring slide area.



NEW MAD RIVER TRAIL

This segment of the Lower Mad River Trail clings to rocky cliffs and traverses the steep canyon side, giving the trail user a feeling of almost hovering above the tumbling cascades of the Mad River. Numerous areas of tread in this area have sloughed away creating hazardous conditions for any trail user not on foot. Phase two will reestablish the tread to Forest Service trail standards and still provide a thrilling single track experience for mountain bikes and trail motorcycles.

When phase two is completed Lower Mad River Trail will once again be intact for its entire 15 mile journey up the deep lovely canyon. ■

LEFT: NEW MAD RIVER TRAIL



MOTORCYCLIST ON OLD MAD RIVER TRAIL



BUILDING NEW MAD RIVER TRAIL

Mule deer

Odocoileus hemionus

Diet: Herbivore

Average life span: 9 to 11 years

Weight: Males 150-300 pounds, does 125-175 pounds

Where you can see them: In winter mule deer gather in the Swakane drainage. In summer and fall mule deer are found throughout the Entiat Ranger District, often in riparian areas.

The mule deer gets its name from its large mule-like ears and is native to western North America.

The "rut" or mating season usually begins in the fall. Each year after mating season, bucks shed their antlers which grow back in the spring. Shedding typically takes place in mid February.

White spotted fawns are born in the spring and are weaned in the fall. Don't assume a lone fawn is abandoned—its mother is nearby; as soon as you leave she'll be back

Although capable of running, mule deer often prefer to stot—moving with a bounding leap, with all four feet coming down together.



NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

The night was cold, scattered clouds opened the forest landscape to magnificent moonlit views. The air was still and the snow sparkled like diamonds. Three of us were snowmobiling over a mountain road on our way for an evening of fun.

As we raced up the road toward the crest of the mountain my snowmobile died. Figuring the carburetor was out of adjustment, I started making repairs. It was so incredibly quiet, the only sound was the distant hum of my buddies' snowmobiles.

As I worked on the carburetor I suddenly got a feeling that I was being watched. This feeling continued to the point where I was getting goose bumps and a chill ran down my spine. Suddenly, I heard the sound of steps crunching through the snow. Step, step, and then silence. Then the most disgusting odor penetrated my nostrils making me curl my nose in disgust. It smelled like something rotten a dog would roll in, but worse.

Next, I heard heavy breathing, much like that of a race horse blowing air after a long fast run. I looked at the top of the cut bank next to me, and standing there was a figure shrouded in mist from exhaled air. It was staring at me with piercing eyes! Suddenly, clouds covered the moon and all went dark for an instant. When I glanced back up to where the figure had been, it was gone.

I knew what I had just seen, but who would believe me?

Years later, I received a phone call from a father who had been hunting with his daughter and her boyfriend. According to dad, from the time they started their short hike from the truck they heard a muffled sort of growl sound intermittently throughout their hike.



Upon reaching their stand it wasn't long before the kids wanted to return to the truck. On their way back, nature called and as the daughter secluded herself she was suddenly frightened by the bushes shaking violently and the odor of something dead permeating the air. She was out of there at a dead run, followed closely by her boyfriend.

They arrived at the vehicle and locked themselves inside. After their nerves calmed and as the vehicle became warmer, they both got out to stretch their legs. The young man got out on the right, the girl on the left. As she stepped toward the edge of the road a huge erect figure appeared over the bank and looked directly into her eyes.

"It was huge, with the biggest biceps I have ever seen!" she said. She froze for an instant and then screamed just as the figure roared and ran across the road and up the bank.

She knew what she had seen. Was it real? You decide. ■

BIGFOOT/SASQUATCH – REAL OR JUST LEGEND?

BY DOUG JENKINS

Rocky Mountain Elk *Cervus canadensis*

Diet: Herbivore

Average life span: 14 to 26 years

Weight: Females average 500 pounds, males weigh about 700 pounds

Where you can see them: In winter at the Oak Creek Wildlife Area.

Elk are also called wapiti, a Native American word that means "light-colored deer." Only the males, called bulls, have antlers which they shed each March and begin to grow back in May.

During the late summer breeding season the bugging of bull elk can be heard for miles. A bull will defend his harem of 20 cows or more from competing bulls and predators. A bull with a harem rarely feeds and he may lose up to 20 percent of his body weight.

Elk migrate to higher elevation areas in spring, following the retreating snows, and the opposite direction in the fall. In the winter, they reconvene into larger herds, though males and females typically remain separate.



To many, the thought of millions of bats dying is a blessing as the association reflects back to age old stories of these tiny critters getting tangled in your hair or vampire bats sucking your blood. In reality if it weren't for bats, plants that bloom at night wouldn't be pollinated and night flying insects would be prolific.

Bats are the largest consumer of night flying insects, eating more than any other critter that roams the woods, rivers, lakes and even around your home. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, both ugly and cute, and play a very important role in the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, a new disease is killing hibernating bats by the millions threatening entire bat populations in the U.S. and Canada. What is killing them is a disease called White-Nose Syndrome. It is called this because of the white fungus evident on the muzzles and wings of affected bats. This disease first appeared in bats in New York in 2006.

Now *Geomyces destructans*, the scientific name for the fungus that kills these tiny creatures, is spreading rapidly across the country. Little is known of the disease other than it is transmitted from bat to bat and that humans may be carrying the spores of this fungus from cave to cave.

As it spreads, wildlife experts are making plans to minimize the impacts to bats in local caves and mines. Boulder Cave is one of the most highly used recreation sites on the Naches Ranger District. Home to a small population of Townsend's big eared bat and several other bat species, precautionary measures are being considered to prevent the disease from wiping out the bats there.

Precautionary measures may include limited interpreter-led tours of the cave, to closing the cave to public access as the disease spreads closer to the Pacific Northwest. Those hiking through Boulder Cave can help by staying on the designated trail and avoiding any contact with the boulders or cave walls. The decision on the future of Boulder Cave lies in the hands of the users and how well they adhere to rules and guidelines. ■

BATS BEWARE, WHITE NOSE SYNDROME IS ON ITS WAY HERE

BY DOUG JENKINS



TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT
PHOTO BY KENT WOODRUFF

ABOVE LEFT PHOTO:
LOOKING OUT THE ENTRANCE OF BOULDER CAVE

WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

GOOD-BYE & HELLO



JEFF RIVERA, WENATCHEE RIVER DISTRICT RANGER

After six years as the Wenatchee River District Ranger, Vaughan Marable has moved on to a new position in the Forest Service Washington, D.C. office. Marable now will develop, plan and evaluate budgets service-wide for forest and range management.

"I'm very excited about this new opportunity, I've always wanted to be involved in operations at the national level, although it is very hard to leave the northwest," Marable said.

Jeffrey A. Rivera has been selected as the new district ranger on the Wenatchee River Ranger District. Rivera comes from Arizona where he was district ranger on the Springerville Ranger District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

"I'm extremely elated to have this opportunity, it will be a very rewarding position for me and I look forward to it," Rivera said.

Rivera holds a B.S. degree in wildlife biology with a minor in range from New Mexico State University. He has a strong natural resource background and on-the-ground experience as a firefighter. Before his job in Springerville, he was a non-commissioned officer in the Air Force and spent one year in Iraq.

When he is not conducting Forest Service business, Jeff can be found in the mountains, longbow in hand, pursuing big game animals or casting a fly to unsuspecting trout. ■

ENCHANTMENTS RESERVATIONS A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

BY SUSAN C. PETERSON

Folks seeking overnight wilderness permits for the popular Enchantments area of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness are now able to make reservations on-line at: recreation.gov. For over 20 years, the Wenatchee River Ranger District hand-processed thousands of applications for those seeking overnight camping in the vastly popular Enchantments. Because of the popularity of this fragile area, an overnight permit season occurs from June 15 to October 15.

The decision was made to move to the new system because of increasing volumes of applications, lengthy and costly processing and dated technology.

There are no changes in the self issued day-use permits available at trailheads or for the few day-of-use (non-reservable) permits. The new web-based reservation system is operated by National Recreation Reservation Service. This system processes applications faster and provides greater security for financial transactions. Applications may be filed out on-line any time day or night, 24/7. There is a \$6 reservation fee per permit, plus a \$5 per person per day fee.

The on-line system also provides area information and alerts to notify people about special conditions such as wildfires. ■

TAKE A WALK, TAKE A HIKE, YOU'LL BE DELIGHTED WITH THE SIGHTS!

BY SUSAN C. PETERSON

In spring 2008, two massive landslides dammed Icicle Creek and were responsible for the wash-out and closure of upper Icicle Creek Road. The landslides were massive, carrying vegetation, mud and car-sized boulders that completely blocked Icicle Creek and rerouted it over Icicle Road. Another mudslide in April 2011, near Eightmile Campground, temporarily blocked Icicle Road.

Efforts to reopen Icicle Creek Road No. 7600 have been challenged by a variety of both natural and administrative set-backs, but by October 2011 motorized access to the end of the road will once again be re-established.

This summer, short term road closures can be expected throughout the construction process, but forest visitors will still be able to drive or bike to four fee campgrounds located off the lower segment of Icicle Road. Eightmile, Bridge Creek, Johnny Creek and Ida Creek Campgrounds all have potable water, vault toilets and garbage service. Best of all, they are located either adjacent to or within a short walking distance of Icicle Creek.

There are a number of fantastic hiking trails and areas to explore in Icicle Valley. If you enjoy easy loop trails, try the family-friendly Icicle Gorge Trail. The Icicle is a gateway into the Enchantments area of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Stellar views are common from Icicle Ridge Trail.

Icicle Creek Trail No. 1551 is a really enjoyable trail. It begins at the very end of Icicle road, and starts out as a pleasant walk through brushy old growth forest along the valley bottom. There are a number of side trails to choose from off the main Icicle Creek Trail. Whether you want to visit lakes, reach higher elevations or just enjoy the great scenery, this trail system offers it all.

Icicle Creek Trail is approximately 13.5 miles long one way, with elevation ranging from 2,800 to 4,680 feet. It's a good spring walk and one of the cooler treks when the weather heats up. Please note that wheeled transport of any kind is not allowed. ■

Steelhead Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*



Diet: Carnivore

Average life span: 8 years

Weight: on average 8 to 11 pounds

Where you can see them: Wenatchee River

Steelhead are a unique species; individuals develop differently depending on their environment. The fish that live in fresh water all their lives are called rainbow trout and the fish that migrate to the ocean are called steelhead.

Adults return to the Columbia River in the late summer and early fall. A portion of the returning run overwinters in the main stem reservoirs, passing over Upper Columbia River dams in April and May. Spawning occurs in late spring of the year following entry into the river. Juvenile steelhead spend one to three years rearing in freshwater before migrating to the ocean. Most adult steelhead return to the Upper Columbia after one or two years at sea.

Unlike other salmonids, steelhead can spawn more than one time. Female steelhead prepare a redd (or nest) in a stream area free of excessive silt and lay between 5,300 and 6,000 eggs.



ICICLE GORGE TRAIL

HOW OLD IS THIS TREE?

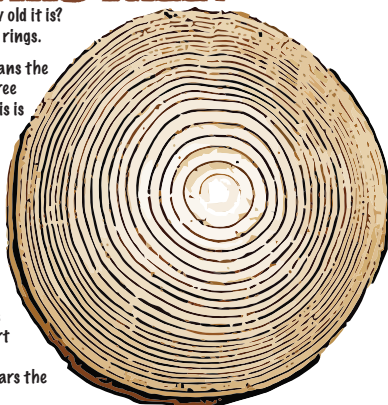
Did you know that a tree can tell you how old it is? It can, all you have to do is count the tree rings.

Dendrochronology is a big word which means the study of tree-ring dating. Every year a tree grows it adds a new layer of wood and this is the process that forms tree rings.

In the photo at right of a cross-section of a tree you can see alternating light and dark circles or rings. The light rings represent spring growth and the dark rings show summer growth, so one light and one dark ring equal a single year of growth.

Try counting the rings to see how old this tree was (count only the dark rings). Start from the center and move outward. The number of dark rings is the number of years the tree has lived.

So, how old is the tree? Take a guess then count the rings to see how close your guess was.



FIND THE WORDS!

THEY CAN BE ACROSS, DOWN, DIAGONAL AND BACKWARDS

POPULATION
RECREATION
SAFETY
VILLAGE



NATIONAL FOREST SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the names of some of our spectacular National Forests! The names should look like this: Rio Grande, Caribbean, Daniel Boone, White Mountains, Osceola, Lewis and Clark.

1. ESWIL DNA AKLRC _____
2. LDAINE ONEBO _____
3. IOR GEDRAN _____
4. IHWET SNOTAMNI _____
5. RBBEANCAI _____
6. ALOSCEE _____

Then correctly match each National Forest with its location:

- A. Colorado
- B. New Hampshire
- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Florida
- E. Kentucky
- F. Montana

Answers to National Forest Scramble: 1. F 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. C 6. D
Answers to the puzzle: Sentenced! Ponderosa pine trees have thick bark. Look for critters under a log. Many organisms live in the soil. Snakes silently slither through the forest. People should treat the forest with respect. Listen to the birds sing. Watch the squirrels and chipmunks scamper up the trees.



SENTENCED!

Unscramble the words in each line to create a sentence from a trip to the woods.

THICK TREES BARK PONDEROSA HAVE PINE

CRITTERS FOR LOG UNDER LOOK A

LIVE MANY IN ORGANISMS SOIL THE

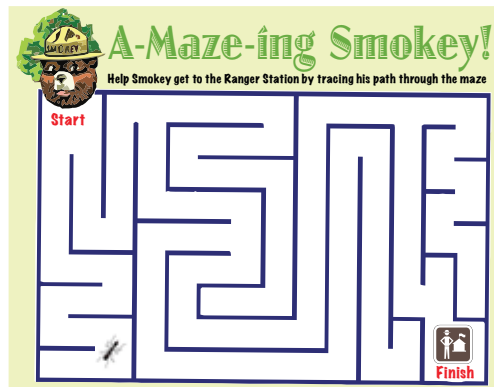
SUMMER GROW WILDFLOWERS ALL LONG

SILENTLY FOREST SNAKES THROUGH SLITHER THE

RESPECT WITH TREAT PEOPLE FOREST THE SHOULD

SING TO LISTEN BIRDS THE

THE SCAMPER SQUIRRELS TREES UP THE WATCH AND CHIPMUNKS



HAWKS

HAVE INCREDIBLE EYESIGHT, EIGHT TIMES AS POWERFUL AS A HUMAN'S. SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THIS NEWSPAPER ARE PHOTOS AND SMALL FOREST-RELATED DRAWINGS. SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THEM WITH YOUR KEEN "HAWKEYE." CHECK THE BOXES AS YOU FIND THEM...

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANT | <input type="checkbox"/> LIZARD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEE | <input type="checkbox"/> MAPLE LEAF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEETLE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSHROOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIRD'S NEST | <input type="checkbox"/> OWL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOOT PRINT | <input type="checkbox"/> PINECONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUTTERFLY | <input type="checkbox"/> SMOKEY BEAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHIPMUNK | <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWFLAKE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRAGONFLY | <input type="checkbox"/> SPIDER WEB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEATHER | <input type="checkbox"/> SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T BELONG IN THE WOODS (SUCH AS LITTER) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISH | <input type="checkbox"/> WOODY OWL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOWER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FROG | |

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

There's an urgent need to restore the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Numerous scientific studies have shown the 4-million-acre national forest is susceptible to uncharacteristically severe fires, climate change threats, insect infestations and plant diseases because decades of successful fire suppression and past timber harvests left dense thickets of flammable trees.

Forest Service scientists developed the Okanogan-Wenatchee N.F. Restoration Strategy to address these threats through landscape-scale project planning that integrates fire, vegetation, wildlife, aquatics and roads management restoration activities.

It streamlines analysis work so they can plan restoration projects for thousands of acres at a time, instead of small projects scattered amongst several planning areas. It also treats more acres faster, with a goal of doubling the forest's restoration footprint in the next decade through efforts measured by resilient landscapes.

In short, the Restoration Strategy is a significant shift in how we approach forest management. It emphasizes defined ecological outcomes, such as controlled burns implemented on a landscape scale, rather than outputs, such as a specific number of board feet of timber harvested. It also emphasizes interdisciplinary teams of foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, soil scientists and watershed specialists that design restoration projects so the national forest will be more resilient to catastrophic fires, climate change, insect infestations and tree diseases.



Okanogan-Wenatchee N.F. employees work hard every day to make the national forest more resilient to these threats through numerous projects spread across seven ranger districts. But, two Restoration Strategy Projects are particularly good examples of this paradigm shift in forest management on a landscape scale: Glass Angel and Dinkleman.

The Glass Angel Project encompasses 11,395 acres in the Glass Creek and Rattlesnake Creek drainages of the Naches Ranger District. The project area is about 15 miles northwest of Naches. The work will include logging of merchantable timber, controlled burns, firewood utilization, chainsaw thinning, tree pruning, invasive plant species control, meadow restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, and utilization of biomass as processing infrastructure allows.

The Dinkleman Pre-Commercial Thinning and Fuels Reduction Project includes about 7,000 acres where the 1988 Dinkleman Fire burned 52,000 acres on the Entiat Ranger District. This project is about five miles west of Entiat, and parts of it lie in Mills and Dinkleman Canyons. Project work mostly entails chainsaw thinning dense thickets of small trees that have grown back since the fire burned and clearing out dead trees killed by the fire that have since fallen to the ground. This reduces the number of small trees and amount of woody debris available to feed future catastrophic fires like Dinkleman.

For more information about these projects, contact the Naches Ranger District at 509-653-1401 or the Entiat Ranger District at 509-784-1511. ■

TRANSFORMING FORESTS: A NEW MODEL IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

BY ROLAND GILLER



OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Headquarters

215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 664-9200
(509) 664-9201 (TTY)

Chelan Ranger District

428 W. Woodin Avenue
Chelan, WA 98816
(509) 682-4900 (Voice/TDD)

Cle Elum Ranger District

803 W. 2nd Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922
(509) 852-1100
(509) 674-9770 (TTY)

Entiat Ranger District

2108 Entiat Way
Entiat, WA 98822
(509) 784-1511 (Voice/TTY)

Naches Ranger District

10237 Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937
(509) 653-1401 (Voice/TDD)

Okanogan Valley Office

1240 South Second Avenue
Okanogan, WA 98840
(509) 826-3275
(509) 662-4396 (TTY)

Methow Valley Ranger District

24 West Chewuch Rd.
Winthrop, WA 98862
(509) 996-4000

Tonasket Ranger District

1 W. Winesap
Tonasket, WA 98855
(509) 486-2186
(509) 486-5144 (TTY)

Wenatchee River Ranger District

600 Sherbourne
Leavenworth, WA 98826
(509) 548-2550 (Voice/TDD)

New Forest Website

(starting July 2011)
www.fs.usda.gov/okawen

Cover photos: Background - Enchantments area of Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Left to right - Tucquala Lake, Lake Chelan, Colchuck Lake.

The CASCADE LOOKOUT is an annual publication of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Managing Editor: Robin DeMario Design and Production: Daniel O'Connor

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COMMENT CORNER

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CASCADE LOOKOUT?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
Photos and graphics were appropriate for the articles					
Articles helped in my decision to visit different areas of the forest					
The information was what I needed					
Should the kid's section be included in future editions of the paper?					
Should the map matrix be included in future editions of the paper?					
Did you find this paper helpful and informative?					

What mix or types of stories would you like to see highlighted?

- ☐ Recreation focus? _____
- ☐ Management focus? _____
- ☐ Both? _____

What can we do to improve the paper and meet your needs? Comments or suggestions for improvement:

We thank you for your comments. The information will help us provide better service in future editions of the Cascade Lookout.

Please cut this section from the paper, put in an envelope and mail to the address below.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Attn: Cascade Lookout Editor
215 Melody Lane
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Thank You!